

SPORTS FIELD SPECIALIST

GRADE: 13

FLSA: NON-EXEMPT

CHARACTERISTICS OF CLASS:

The Sports Field Specialist performs intermediate skilled work in the care and maintenance of City parks' athletic fields and Montgomery County Schools' adopted fields. The incumbent is responsible for comprehensive turf maintenance, integrated pest management, vegetative management, athletic field layout and preparation for programmed sports events under the direction of the Facilities and Athletic Fields Maintenance Supervisor. The work requires moderate and occasionally considerable physical demands under somewhat disagreeable working conditions due to the outside work. The position requires regular interdepartmental coordination and periodic contact with other departments and school board personnel when providing services and contact with contractors to coordinate contract services. The incumbent directs the work of City staff and contract employees.

EXPECTATIONS OF ALL CITY EMPLOYEES:

- Learn and demonstrate an understanding of City, department, division and team goals.
- Serve and meet the needs of customers during routine or emergency situations.
- Ability and willingness to work as part of a team, to demonstrate team skills and to perform a fair share of team responsibilities.
- Ability to assess his/her work performance or the work performance of the team.
- Plan and organize his/her work, time and resources, and if applicable that of subordinates.
- Contribute to the development of others and/or the working unit or overall organization.
- Produce desired work outcomes including quality, quantity and timeliness.
- Communicate effectively with peers, supervisors, subordinates and people to whom service is provided.
- Understand and value differences in employees and value input from others.
- Consistently report to work and work assignments prepared and on schedule.
- Consistently display a positive behavior with regard to work, willingly accept constructive criticism and be respectful of others.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:

- Performs necessary turf maintenance and turf health care tasks for municipal and school board adopted athletic fields and open spaces, as outlined in the Annual Turf Maintenance Programs.

- Performs general and preventive turf maintenance for almost 80 acres of high-use turf areas, including 34 City-owned athletic fields, 15 school board-owned athletic fields, and various parks and right-of-way open spaces.
- Operates specialized turf maintenance equipment, including a core aerator, top dresser, scarifier, overseeding sod cutter, rototiller, box grader, loaders, pesticide and herbicide sprayers, drop-type applicators, turf roller, augers, mowers, blowers, and dump trucks.
- Coordinates preventive maintenance and minor repairs of equipment.
- Programs and operates athletic field irrigation systems, assists contractors with irrigation system repairs, and installs and maintains athletic field drainage systems.
- Cuts and installs sod, core aerates, overseeds, top dresses, and rolls turf areas.
- Applies pesticides and herbicides to turf areas, as required.
- Lays out and lines athletic fields, performs infield maintenance, and maintains service and pesticide application records.
- Applies compo and fertilizer and waters sod, as required.
- Maintains turf care logs and testing data.
- Inspects and uses technical testing equipment to determine causes for turf failure, and develops and implements corrective action.
- Acts as a member of the Parks and Facilities emergency response team during weather-related emergencies.
- Performs the duties of the Facilities and Athletic Fields Maintenance Supervisor when necessary.
- Performs quality assurance inspections on athletic fields and park open spaces.
- Performs related duties, as required.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Required Training and Experience:

Any combination of training and experience substantially equivalent to graduation from high school and three years of experience in the maintenance and care of athletic field turf, ball field maintenance equipment, irrigation system repairs, turf equipment operation, and athletic field layout or closely related work. Possession of, or ability to obtain a motor vehicle Class CDL operator's license as issued by the Maryland Department of Motor Vehicles (or an equivalent license issued by the employee's state of residence), within 30 days of employment. Possession of, or ability to obtain a pesticide applicator's license issued by the Maryland Department of Agriculture within 30 days of employment.

Preferred Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Knowledge of the standard practices and tools used in athletic field turf maintenance and propagation.
- Knowledge of operation and maintenance of irrigation systems.

- Knowledge of occupational hazards and safety precautions necessary in the handling and application of pesticides and herbicides, and the operation of heavy equipment.
- Skill in directing the work of others.
- Ability to operate specialized turf maintenance equipment.
- Ability to maintain records, tools, inventory, and manuals necessary for use in the maintenance and upkeep of athletic field turf and turf maintenance equipment.
- Ability to prioritize work effectively.
- Ability to understand and follow oral and written instructions, maintenance manuals, and schedules.
- Ability to perform tasks in difficult work positions for long periods of time.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with employees and the general public contacted in the course of work.